

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"We know that 'The Glory of God is Intelligence,' and that we, His children, are heirs to and subjects of that same law, for the glory of man is intelligence likewise."—J. REUBEN CLARK, JR.

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THE BIRTHDAY OF THE PRIMARY ASSOCIATION

NETTIE L. WOODBURY

EUROPEAN MISSION PRIMARY SUPERVISOR

THE PRIMARY ASSOCIATION of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints observed on August 11th the fifty-fifth anniversary of the organization of its first Primary group. From its humble beginning over two generations ago, it has grown, through invaluable service to the youth of Zion, to be one of the most important and popular auxiliary organizations in the Church.

Sister Aurelia S. Rogers, a pioneer mother of Farmington, Utah, first conceived the thought of Primary. A natural-born teacher with a background of refinement and culture, Sister Rogers was quick to see the necessity of organized activity and schooling among the children. Their parents were driven, of necessity, to work long and hard to provide them with food, clothing, and shelter, and consequently the children were in danger of developing the roughness and uncleanliness which so often seemed to result from pioneer life. It was Sister Rogers' belief, in her own words, that "the children should be taught to be better helps in their homes, to improve their manners, to learn everything that is good; they should also be taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Sister Rogers took her ideas to Eliza R. Snow, the leader of women's activities in the Church at that time. Sister Snow, impressed with the necessity for and the benefits to be derived from organized effort in behalf of the children, presented the matter to the general authorities, who approved the idea and appointed her to organize the proposed movement.

The first step toward organization was taken in Farmington, Utah, the home of Sister Rogers. A systematic canvass of the Ward membership, in which invitations were offered to the children under fourteen years of age to come to new meetings, resulted in an attendance at the first meeting of 215 out of the

224 children in the Ward. Sister Rogers' dream had become a reality.

The programme of early Primary consisted of singing, prayer, often in concert and often by the individual child himself, lesson presentation upon such subjects as obedience, faith in God, punctuality, good manners, Word of Wisdom, the memorization of Bible and Book of Mormon verses, gems, articles of faith, etc. It also included the planting of corn and beans to be stored for times of famine; handwork, such as the making of rag carpets for use in Church buildings; gathering of fruits and vegetables to be donated to the hospital. Outside features were provided for the children such as entertainments, picnics in groves, and parties in homes where games formed a new and varied field. As early as 1880, fairs and bazaars were held, and by means of these constructive projects, activities were introduced for the first time in the organization. This also was the beginning of organized play in the Association. The Bible and the *Juvenile Instructor* were the text books; suitable stories from life experiences and other sources being used in connection with them. Thus, with the inspiration of the Lord to guide it, the Primary organization began to thrive. The first ten years of Primary work were years of organization and adjustment. Later a magazine, *The Children's Friend*, was acquired, with Sister May Anderson as the Editor, and supervision over the work in the various stake organizations was developed.

THE PRIMARY WANTED

The Primary proved to be something which both the parents and the children wanted, for it grew with great rapidity. With the growth of numbers has come an enlarged vision of possibilities. Though fields of activity have been more clearly defined and some modifications made, yet the general objectives remain practically the same as at the beginning. The *Children's Friend*, published monthly, has been enlarged and made better. It is the only Church periodical devoted entirely to children. In it are the usual features that appeal to children: stories, pictures, poems, articles, and also a parent's department. Back of each contribution there is a spiritual significance which children need in this matter-of-fact world. The stories are interesting; the pictures, true to the interests of childhood, are always selected from what is best in art. It is really an encouraging friend for little children. The lesson material and helps for the officers and teachers now form a separate magazine which contains material for three months, and is published quarterly.

The field of activity for the Primary Association is considered to be practical religion, developed through the fields of ethics, economics, sociology, and athletics. Opportunity is afforded the children to practically live out experiences in the field of religion, to practise Gospel principles in a happy way and thus find joy in Church affiliation, to be trained in character-building, and at the same time be taught faith in God. As the years from four to fourteen are the habit-forming years of children, stress is placed upon health and happiness through service, that they might, once impressed with this message, carry it with them throughout life.

To the Primary, as well as to the Mutual Improvement Asso-

ciation, has been assigned the obligation of caring for and directing the leisure time and recreational activities of the young members of the Church. The programme is therefore formed with this thought in mind, and is made to fit the age requirements of the children. The younger children indulge in the simpler forms of recreation and activities. As they grow older the programme is made more complex to suit their enlarged capacities, and is gradually developed to a point where it is merged into the programme of the Mutual Improvement Associations, in which the young boys and girls participate when they complete their work in the Primary.

The Primary has grown until, at the present time there are over one hundred thousand boys and girls throughout the Church belonging to it. The feeling of the thousands of teachers who are giving of their time and talents to the wonderful work of helping the children to grow morally, mentally and spiritually, is well expressed in the following words by Harold J. Hamilton :

Who does God's work will get God's pay
 However long may seem the day,
 However weary be the way.

He does not pay as others pay,
 In gold or land or raiment gay,
 In goods that perish and decay.

But God's high wisdom knows a way,
 And this is sure let come what may,
 Who does God's work will get God's pay.

It is the aim of the Primary Association to teach, through activities that appeal to children and meet their needs most fully, faith in God and in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and, through happy service, to tie them to the Church. Its teachers hope not merely to teach pupils good principles, but to lead them to firmly establish, in the years of childhood, good religious, moral and physical habits of life.

How thankful we, as Primary workers and parents should be for the inspiration which guided those workers fifty-five years ago in establishing this wonderful organization for children, and for the continued guidance in making its influence felt throughout all the nations of the world. May we all show our appreciation to our Father in Heaven by putting forth every possible effort to keep the children under our influence and to reach out our arms to the hundreds who have not had the opportunity of attending a Primary meeting.

PRIMARY ASSOCIATION OF THE BRITISH MISSION

THE Primary Association in the British Mission, as in the Church, had a small beginning. The first meetings that can be found recorded were held in the Hyde Branch of the Manchester District in 1916. As years passed by, the movement spread to other parts of the mission, gradually gaining impetus until now there are thirty-six Associations throughout the branches of the Church in the British Isles,

The purpose of the Primary work in the Mission is to give Latter-day Saint children, and other children as well, all the advantages and opportunities provided through the Primary organizations, including a programme for them in which character-building through ethical teaching and participation in all types of sound activities may bring spiritual development.

Although the work is being carried on and supported by our Church, children of all religions denominations are made welcome. The only requisite for membership is a willingness to take part and assist in making the work better. Parents, too, are cordially invited to see for themselves the nature of the work, and the results accomplished by it.



BRITISH MISSION PRIMARY SUPERINTENDENCY

NETTIE L. WOODBURY, President

CELIA B. WILLMOTT

EDNA G. CLAYTON

First Assistant Superintendent

Second Assistant Superintendent

MILDRED L. POOLE, Secretary

So that the organization may continue to advance and grow, a mission-wide Primary Board was formed on January 3rd, 1933. It is the purpose of this board to co-ordinate the material used in all Primary organizations in the mission so that all will be uniform, to help the workers in each branch, and to assist in adapt-

ing the material supplied by the General Board of the Church Primaries to fit the needs of the Church in Great Britain.

Often, when a Primary is first organized in a branch, it is so small that only one class can be held. However, as the children in the neighbourhood hear about it, and learn what is going on, attendance usually increases. When a Primary group becomes large enough, it is divided into four different groups, viz., Zion's Boys and Zion's Girls, Bluebird Girls, Seagull Girls, and Trail Builder Boys.

Zion's Boys and Zion's Girls are made up of children from pre-school age to eight years. Zion stands for "The Pure in Heart." It is therefore very necessary for the children bearing this name to be honest, truthful, dependable; to learn the right things to do and to do them. This is an opportune time to implant worthy ideals in the pure hearts of the younger children. Habits of courtesy and thoughtfulness for others are stressed in this group. The motto, "Be Honest," they are taught to make a part of their lives.

The Blue Bird Girls include girls from nine to eleven years of age. The name "Bluebird" was chosen because it is the symbol of happiness; and happiness through making others happy is a very important objective in all the work of this group. Their motto is, "The World Needs Happiness-makers." Their activities are divided into three gardens, namely: The Home Garden, The World Garden, and the Religious Garden.

The Seagull Girls are those from twelve to fourteen years of age. Their motto is, "Serve Gladly." They also have a charm, "Be Beautiful Within." To give each girl all-round development, Seagull activities are divided into six fields: the spiritual, knowledge, home service, health, handcraft, and the special fields. Girls are all encouraged to work and gain credits in each of the various fields of activity, and to remember, "Scatter sunshine all along your way, and the Lord will indeed make you real Seagull Girls."

The Trail Builder Boys' class is made up of boys from nine to fourteen years of age. The objective of their entire programme is to provide them with activities that are interesting, and yet on a high spiritual plane. They have four trails to climb in surmounting their difficulties in life: the knowledge, service, health, and spiritual trails. The four trails all have spirituality and they lead in the paths of right living. The boys are encouraged to progress in each of them. The Trail Builder's guide gives the standard to which every boy is expected to work. It is simple but definite, and may become a part of his every-day life:

"I'll strive to do my best to:
 Reverence my Heavenly Father in word and deed,
 Be loyal to my country,
 Honour my father and mother,
 Do a good turn daily."

A definite weekly programme is carried out each month. It is the aim of the Primary to have the children take as active a part as possible, with the teacher guiding their activities. The special mission of the teacher is to assist in moulding the characters and lives of the little ones in her care.

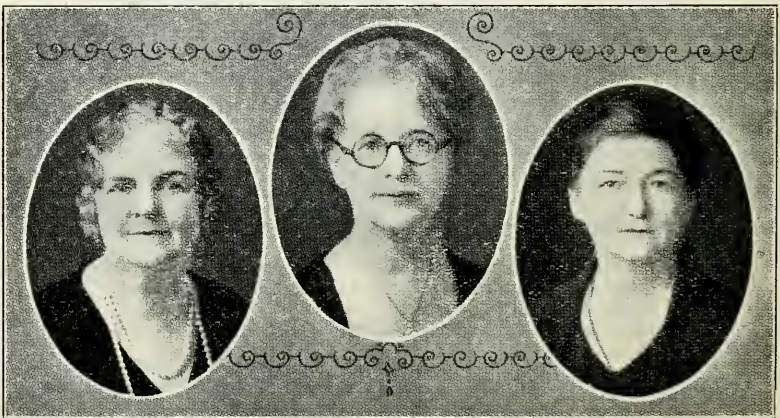
The first lesson of the month is devoted to the study of a Bible

story. Under the leadership of a teacher who believes the principles she teaches and finds joy in their presentation, the children learn to know their Bible. The second lesson is an ethical story. A story wisely chosen, clearly developed, and properly told carries to the children a message that they will always remember, and be able to use in their daily lives. The third meeting of the month is the busy hour. Handwork is used to illustrate and enrich the hour, to provide opportunity for children to learn to use their hands in useful occupations, to offer avenues of action for right principles, to teach thrift and ingenuity in the making of useful and ornamental articles from discarded and waste materials, etc. The fourth meeting hour is the music and play hour. Children are taught how to play together. The programme includes creative and recreative play, with all activities that make for health, joy, and creative development.

Anyone who sees this well-planned, wisely adapted programme for young people cannot help but be impressed with its character-building qualities. It is to be hoped that all parents in the British Mission will take advantage of Primary work to assist them in directing the lives of their little ones, and will encourage them to attend each week; and also assist the teachers who are giving their time and talents in this great cause of helping to mould the lives and characters of God's children here on earth.—
NETTIE L. WOODBURY.

FROM THE PRIMARY GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCY

THE inspiration and guiding influence of those chosen by our Father to stand at the helm of the Primary organization, now reach into almost every civilized nation of the world. They fur-



MAY ANDERSON, General Superintendent

ISABELLE S. ROSS
First Assistant Superintendent

EDNA H. THOMAS
Second Assistant Superintendent

nish the motivating power which is helping to shape the destinies of millions of God's children and banding them together as a literal "army of the Living God."

The General Superintendency, with their associate board members, conducted, early in June, in Salt Lake City, the thirty-first annual convention of the Primary Association. More than two thousand officers and teachers of the Association met together in thirty-three sessions for the purpose of outlining and discussing a definite programme for the development of the soul and character of the youth of to-day.

In a radio address, several months prior to the June conference, Sister May Anderson, in behalf of the General Superintendency of the Primary Association, delivered to all Primary workers the greetings of the General Superintendency, and, to the world at large, explained the purpose of Primary work. Her message, in part, follows:

" . . . To the members of the Church of Jesus Christ who, with us, labour for the welfare of the boys and girls in all the divisions of the organized stakes of the Church and in all mission branches throughout the world, to the thousands of women—the volunteer teachers—who give their services without any material reward that children shall know and love our leader, who is Christ, the Lord; to these teachers especially, the General Board sends greetings, thanks and appreciation.

" . . . The Primary Association is a week-day meeting for boys and girls. It was instituted to give opportunities that would lead children by happy ways into habits of religious life, to provide activities that would safeguard leisure time, and to teach the value of a sound mind in a sound body. In brief, to keep children happy, active and well.

"Let the children come to me," has echoed for all lovers of children ever since that day in old Jerusalem when the Master, in gentle tones, rebuked His disciples for hindering those who brought their little ones to Him. Note the beauty of His method: Love in words, for He said of children, 'Of such is the kingdom of God.' Love in action, for He took them in His arms and blessed them. He helped people to understand God's kingdom through an appreciation of the sweetest, most lovable and most interesting of all His creations—little children. When an organization for childhood seemed to be a necessity the Primary came into existence, just fifty-five years ago. We believe it was divinely inspired, for from the first it adopted Christ's method of teaching. . . .

"It was not hard to discover how children enjoyed having a little meeting of their own; that it was apparently a good beginning to 'let the children come'—to come to a place that was just for children, where they could sing of God's goodness and thank Him in simple prayers, where they learned scripture verses and incidents from the life of Christ—all of which they were encouraged to express in child-like ways and words. This religious atmosphere created a love and reverence for God and His goodness, brought Christ into their consciousness and related Him to their lives and experiences.

"There are now about one hundred thousand boys and girls belonging to the Primary Association, with more than fifteen
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1933

EDITORIAL

THE PRIMARY! GO AHEAD!

THE Primary Associations are here to stay, for they have a permanent place in the activity programme of the Church. Their special function is, on week days, to train, educate and develop the child, morally and religiously. Can any mission be greater? As the child is, so mankind will be inclined.

It is necessary that every branch organize and maintain Primary Associations, with sympathetic vigour, if the full blessings of the Gospel shall be received by those who constitute the branch. We have the dear hope that the missions of Zion may soon enjoy all the privileges and blessings available to the stakes of Zion. This will be possible only if all the provisions for Gospel living are maintained in missions as in stakes. The creation and hearty maintenance of branch Primaries will help greatly in winning the full blessings of the Gospel. That is a forceful argument for the establishment of branch Primaries.

A more unselfish motive should urge the formation of Primary groups in every branch. Children are gifts of God—each one an immortal being containing the seeds of perfection. They need nurture for their young, growing souls, such as the Primary can give. Parents and friends, all together, carry the responsibility of bringing up the child in ways he should follow. We, grown to man's and woman's estate, are but children before the Lord. He helps us into larger lives, as we must help the little ones. Whenever we do this, the Lord smiles upon us.

The proselyting value of Primary Associations is distinctly high. Primaries are so organized and programmed as to attract all children, not merely those of the faith. The children of friends or neighbours or friendly strangers are taught principles of eternal truth, and often reach happy membership in the Church, and as often lead their parents into association with the Church. Primary workers may properly look upon themselves as proselyting missionaries in the cause of Christ.

Those who guide the Primary Associations benefit largely thereby. Whoever leads a child into noble maturity saves that life for the eternal purposes of the Lord. When that child, in turn, leads others, perhaps its parents, into the fold, the Primary teacher's heart is filled to overflowing with a warm joy. No service within the Church gives larger soul-satisfaction or more abiding happiness; for, the real purpose of life is to move towards our own salvation and assist others to do the same. The Lord is engaged in just such work—Primary workers labour in partnership with our Heavenly Father.

Go ahead! Form Primary Associations in every branch in these missions, from neighbourhood Primaries to the more highly

organized divisions. Hundreds of Latter-day Saints, now inactive, will be brought into service; new power and spirit will vitalize the branches; thousands of children will be taught eternal truth; this will be a better world, happiness will fill our souls, and the Lord will reward us bountifully.—W.

A PRIMARY APPEAL

THE Sixth Article of our Faith reads as follows: "We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, viz.: Apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc."

It is to the et cetera I wish to call your attention at this time. There is a place in the Church for every one, from the tiniest tot to the furrow-browed and bedimmed-eyed older people. As the Church has advanced it has found a place for old and young, beginning with the Priesthood, then the Relief Society, Retrenchment Society, Y. M. M. I. A., Y. L. M. I. A., then the Primary. Solomon, the wise man of Israel, said: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it."

How often have I thought of this wonderful advice. How appealing it must be to every parent, showing the necessity of good home training, giving to each child a mother's and a father's counsel, as to their children's welfare.

From the mother's knee how quickly the little tot begins to form friendships and associates, mingling with friends and neighbours. A desire soon comes to mingle in groups. Parents whose desires are that their children shall mingle with the best and have the choicest environment, will be prayerfully looking for choice companions for their offspring.

So the Church, ever alert, ever thinking for the best, amongst its other auxiliaries, organized the Primary Association, that little ones, girls and boys, assemble once or twice each week, and are there taught interestingly, good moral stories, Biblical and others. Many times I have seen a young lady sitting with a dozen or so children surrounding a table telling the children some interesting story about the Saviour, when He was born, the circumstances under which He was born, telling them of the wise men, and the sign in the heavens pointing by a star to the place of His birth. Each time the little tots meet, another story would be presented, until week after week, step by step the little ones are taught daily truths and moral lessons. The interest increases in a multiplied ratio with each lesson.

To Latter-day Saints and friends: We appeal to you to send your children to our Primary Association meetings, where they will be taught obedience, to honour father and mother, respect their neighbours and the rights of others, in fact, ideals of doing good, love, purity, and cleanliness will be inculcated in their minds, and you will say with thousands of others, "God bless the day when my little girl or boy joined the Primary Association of the Latter-day Saints."

JAMES H. DOUGLAS
British Mission President

FROM THE PRIMARY GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCY

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thousand teachers who serve voluntarily. The children are being helped in simple ways, but they are of the same order as on the day when Christ took children in His arms and blessed them. We can only be successful with them near to us, in our hearts and in our arms.

"As sincere believers in the divinity of Christ, the mothers in our Church are fired with desire to make His teachings live in the lives of their children. We can find nothing better than the methods He used in the education of children.

"When the Saviour said of children, 'Of such is the kingdom of God,' He offered for those who would undertake to serve as teachers, a companionship with love and faith which can only be experienced through contact with children. As we teach them we learn from them; their sweet innocence leads us; their sincerity and the beauty of their child-like faith draws us back to the heavenly way."

PRIMARY ACTIVITIES AS A MISSIONARY

IRENE BARGH

To attempt to provide adequate recreational activity for Primary children is no small task. Two successful efforts made in Sheffield, which have also proved effective missionaries, may interest and help other Primary workers.



SHEFFIELD DISTRICT MAY QUEEN

Looking through the children's scrap-books we found some of them had a gift for drawing and writing; so, after prayerful study, it was decided to issue a children's magazine to all those interested.

This magazine, *The Children's Messenger*, is issued six times a year. An annual subscription costs sixpence. Drawings and paintings, stories, essays and original poems, all the unaided work of boys and

girls under fourteen years of age, are submitted and published, and keenly appreciated by the subscribers.

Every issue contains essays on the Primary slogan and "Why I like to come to Primary." The little testimonies of the Gospel contained therein, often written by non-"Mormon" children, must surely prove an effective missionary among their parents.

Social functions are, of course, a great help in establishing con-

tact with the children's parents. Primary May Day in Sheffield, now an annual event, is popular with children and parents alike, whether Church members or not.

The first May Day was declared to be the prettiest entertainment given in the Sheffield Chapel for a long time, and it was unanimously agreed that the second one, held this year, was a hundred per cent better than the first. Careful rehearsing over a long period, and willing co-operation between teachers and children made this possible.

Over forty white-clad girls and little boys formed a guard of honour through which passed Queen Daisy 1st. (1932), and Queen Bluebell 1st. (1933), and their attendants. The Queens led this procession to the platform, decorated with may blossom, daisies, bluebells and gorse, and strewn with flowers, where they took their seats on their flower-bedecked thrones, the children grouped round them. What a picture that was! Could it be that the "Mormon" Church was responsible for it?

The programme of songs, recitations, and country dances which followed the ceremony of the crowning of the Queen, revealed more talent developed in the Primary children, and the gratified applause of the parents present was irrefutable evidence of their pleasure.

The Queen herself, chosen by popular vote of the children, is a non-member of the Church. Indeed, out of a Primary of over sixty children, only eleven are "Mormons," and a Primary function usually draws an audience consisting largely of friends of the children.

The Primary has done much to allay the prejudice which was rampant in the neighbourhood from which the children are chiefly drawn. There has been a Primary in Sheffield for six years, and the fruits of the teachings are now becoming evident.

We have found May Day and the *Children's Messenger* able demonstrators of the good teachings of Primary.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRIMARY

MARY A. FITTON

MANCHESTER DISTRICT PRIMARY SUPERVISOR

It has often been said, "The home is the mother's workshop." Here she takes the bits of human clay God has given her, and, with infinite love, patience and care succeeds in creating something of wondrous beauty and power. Perhaps in the simple, tranquil days of a century ago such an achievement was possible. But many changes have taken place since then.

The powers which science has placed at the world's disposal have greatly changed the life and habits of people. Unfortunately, much of our modern life tends to destroy, rather than build up those virtues and ideals which have made mother and home the supreme symbols of creative character and development. In music, art and literature they have always stood for all that was greatest and worthwhile in life. But the modern mother finds herself faced with problems unknown to an earlier

generation, and for which she has received no preparation. It is sad, yet true, that the penalty for such a condition falls upon innocent and helpless little children. Yet upon these same little ones largely depends the future of civilization.

For upwards of three years I have been actively interested in the problem of caring for the pre-school child, working with others toward the establishment of nursery schools for the under-privileged children. My investigations have brought very forcibly to me the deplorable conditions under which these children must live their early years. True, there are many excellent movements being fostered, each aiming at human betterment through child culture, but my experience has honestly convinced me that not one of them can compare in organization and possibilities with the Primary Association of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Not only do the children need our help, but we need theirs. Primary gives to the Branch what children give to home, a wholeness or completeness.

At the present time, when our social and economic life is being moved by forces which we do not understand, something is happening to the great function of motherhood. As a mother without children I have discovered, in Primary work, an outlet for service and devotion closely resembling the natural one of "motherhood."

The very nature of Primary work has a purifying influence upon the mind, leading one to think constructively, confidently, wholesomely and healthfully in terms of human helpfulness, love and service; thus saving one from the danger of petty egoism, with all its destructive emotions, which are such a menace in these days of so much unemployment and leisure. Speaking as one member to another, I consider our Primaries to be the place where we have the opportunity of creating human rock, as a foundation upon which Zion can be built in our beloved England. It is our God-given privilege and opportunity to recreate something fine, sweet and vital, which seems to have been crushed or killed in humanity in the great haste to get money. I fail to see a better way of proving our gratitude and understanding of the Gospel, than by dedicating ourselves to the care and protection of our children, and doing all in our power to build up around our missions, a strong chain of Primary organizations, which will stand as a beacon light in the darkness of oft neglected youth.

THE PRIMARY

MAY COLEBY

ALL great things, whether animate or inanimate, must have a firm foundation, for real worth depends upon ability to stand. How important it is, then, that the lives of human beings, potentially the greatest of all things, be built upon the rock of truth, rather than upon the sands of error.

The Primary Association has for its objective, the planting into children's minds and beings such things as perforce must be the foundation of their lives. "Build thee more stately mansions, oh, my soul"—this ever-living poem of Oliver Wendell

Holmes is expressive of the Primary's conception of its work of training children. Such fundamental truths as prayer and simple faith in God as our Heavenly Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, as our elder Brother, are taught untiringly to the children. The need for baptism when the child is eight years old, with the result of having the Gift of the Holy Ghost bestowed upon him is taught, together with the knowledge that Joseph Smith was our Prophet, and the means whereby God brought the precious Gospel to earth in these last days.

It is often the case that a greater percentage of the children who attend Primary are not members of our Church. But these children, as they grow up, go out into the world to take their place, and, of necessity they must take with them the thoughts and teachings which have come to them from the Primary meetings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Jesus said of little children, "Suffer them to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." No worker in the Primary misunderstands our Saviour's words, for there is a great wealth of love and forbearance which comes to those engaged in this work.

The mission of parents toward their children is a great and responsible mission, differing in its aspects, as the children go through the different stages of youth. The Primary teachers strive to help the parents in building the children's lives, so that, as they grow to manhood and womanhood, they may find their lives noble and stately mansions.

THE PULSE OF PRIMARY

I AM indeed proud to occupy the position of a Primary president, for I realize it certainly is a wonderful organization.

The present day conditions call for Primaries more now than ever in the past; for earning a living often takes both parents to work, leaving them little time to spend with their children. The children, not having the mother ever present with them, require the aid or training which they receive by attending Primary. With this thought in mind, we organized our Primary.

First, we held it in the home of one of the members of the Church, but owing to the increase in membership we were compelled to transfer our Primary meeting to the Branch hall.

The Clayton Primary has been steadily progressing for the past two and one-half years with what success? Many children are trying to live the Word of Wisdom, by drinking water, keeping their teeth, hands and faces clean. One of our Primary members has been baptised into our Church, resulting in the investigation of his mother and sister. They are learning the fundamental principles of the Gospel. On one occasion I gave the children a lesson on "The Personality of God." The following day their school teacher gave them a lesson under the same heading, but apparently not the same idea. The children stood up and told him that was not their idea of God because Alice, their Primary Teacher, had told them different.

May all Primary workers find as much happiness in the Primary work as I do at Clayton.

ALICE HUDDLESTON, Clayton Branch, Leeds District,

WE all realize how important it is for the child's progress that he receives the right training. Some years ago a Lady Missionary, Sister Caroline J. Hatch, organized a Primary in Handsworth, of which I was a member. I never thought I should be an officer or realized the joy it would bring to me, if I were. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy is quite understood in the Primary. Some may think we only have Bible and moral stories, but we also have our fun. Character can even be built in play.

We have had lovely conferences—some that thrill you even to think of them. In our Primary nearly all the children are non-members. They are learning the Gospel. May God bless the mothers of the Church, and those whose children attend, who are not in the Church, that they may desire and help their children to see the beauties of the Gospel, always remembering that God sells all good things at the price of labour.

WINIFRED E. MAKIN

Handsworth Branch, Birmingham District

FOURTEEN years ago I started associations with the Primary in the Norwich District, Lowestoft Branch, with just five children; now there are thirty members there. All of the five have been baptized, and two hold the Priesthood. When one of them was assigned to the Yarmouth Branch a short time ago and spoke for half an hour on Gospel doctrine, I felt inexpressibly overjoyed, realizing that Primary work, with all its difficulties and self-sacrifice, was well worth while.

We have begun to make progress in the Yarmouth Branch through inviting parents to our summer outings. Forty-two mothers enjoyed an excursion to the country, where outdoor games were conducted, with a strawberry meal on the grassy meadows. The mothers have promised to attend a children's service shortly, when one Sunday evening will be devoted entirely to the children, who are memorizing poems, dialogues, and singing Latter-day Saint songs. This will be a wonderful opportunity to give a Gospel message and invitations to come again.

This is wonderful work, never losing interest. The teacher, keeping young in spirit by associating with the young and by seeking to gain their love and confidence, is able to build character. I know this is the work of the Lord and will someday fill the whole earth, and that our Heavenly Father depends on His earthly children to do their part, however small and humble it may be. If we do it faithfully, we will reap rich blessings.

ANNIE M. AYDEN

District Supervisor of Primaries, Norwich District

PRIMARY IN THE DISTRICTS

REPORTS of Primary activities from many districts in the British Mission give evidence of its importance and popularity in the branches. In the Newcastle District, the attendance of the Gateshead Branch Sunday School has greatly increased as a

result of contact with children through Primary. The Middlesbrough Branch Primary has an average attendance of fifty members, ninety per cent of whom are not members of the Church. Projects and programmes planned for the children from time to time are creating good feeling and respect toward the Church. Plans are under way to organize new associations in the other branches in that district that are as yet without them.

THE Primary of the Merthyr Branch in the Welsh District has been singularly successful in the presentation of a play, "Cinderella." Parents, non-members of the Church in the Eastwood Branch of the Nottingham District, are only too happy to have their children attending the branch Primary. They recognize it as an uplifting, character-building institution.

PRIMARY of the Airdrie Branch, Scottish District, has found the lesson material as supplied by the Mission Primary Board a splendid course of study. Regularly throughout the year, the children are encouraged to write essays on the subjects they have



AIRDRIE BRANCH PRIMARY

studied, an activity they enjoy immensely. At branch conferences they are given an opportunity to present, in the form of a tableaux or a play, some of the things they have learned.

WHEN the Brighton Branch, Portsmouth District held a Primary Conference recently, Primary children provided most of the programme, which included songs, poems, and a play. It was an inspiration to the Primary workers and friends who were there to enjoy it. A primary conference is an excellent means of stimulating interest in Branch Primary activities. The Handsworth Branch in Birmingham district has conducted many such meetings, with unusual success.

PRIMARY in the Clayton Branch of Leeds District fills a distinctive need in providing training and instruction for many children whose parents must spend most of their time providing for them life's necessities. The Association has been organized for only two and one-half years, but it is steadily growing.

IN the Yarmouth Branch of the Norwich District, Primary leaders have found that by inviting the parents to the summer

activities and outings of the organization, they have been able to overcome the indifference and prejudice against the work that threatened to stand in the way of its progress. Also, interest within the organization has been increased by giving the children the responsibility of conducting their own meetings, and its resultant development.

PRIMARY WORK throughout the mission is finding approval and support from members and non-members of the Church. It adds completeness to the activities of a branch. The developments cited above are just a few among the many branches that are enjoying success in this phase of Church activity. They all bear testimony to the wisdom of the slogan, "A Primary in Every Branch."

THE TEACHER'S PRAYER

GIVE me but childhood's steps to guide
 Along the paths of Truth ;
 Let me but place her shining torch
 Within the hands of youth ;
 Go, Fame and Fortune, where you will,
 I'll hold you ever kind,
 If to my lot it fall to train
 Sweet childhood's heart and mind.

Give me to make my daily task
 A song of love and praise ;
 Let me inspire the soul of youth
 To follow wisdom's ways ;
 Be mine a strong and cheerful heart,
 A purpose undefiled,
 That I may every worthy be
 To teach a little child.

Give me to sow the seeds of peace,
 That fruitful years may grow ;
 Let me in kindly hearts of fire,
 To face and quell the foe ;
 I shall not ask my way to be
 The paths that heroes trod,
 If daily I can youth prepare
 For country and for God.

ANONYMOUS

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